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COMMUNICATIONS.

## THE NEW NATIONAL REA does not hold itself respons

Suffrage for Women.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1873. To the Editors of the New National Era:

The proper share which woman should have in public and political life has ever been a debatable question; but one on which the minority has ever grown stronger with the progress of culture and religion.

So far is the question from being a new ne, as the majority assert that, from Zeno bia leading her troops to battle, and Aspasia assisting at the councils of Pericles, to Catharine of Russia, La Grande Mademoiselle whom Higginson so glowingly describes, Anna Dickinson and Mrs. Livermore successfully competing with men in their pet vo cations, the whole procession of the centuof illustrious women, who have, in the din of war, as well as in the enervating stillness of peace, proven their intellectual capacity and equality. He who disputes the fact shows at

once his ignorance and dogmatism.
Old, then, is this question, dating back to the middle ages, at least, and in the very dawn of philosophy, finding a strong advocate in Plato. It is not an untried problem. In dously excluded. America and in Europe, though in neither Were such explace extensively, the experiment has been ried. Neither the offspring of abolitionism nor a corollary of negro suffrage, it may de-pend upon its own merits for the justice of its demands. It is important for us to discuss this question to-day, inasmuch as it has passed the boundaries of ridicule, and is now fairly within the domain of discussion. In some form or other we must all meet it, and industry, education, and property, which tend with regard to it we must have some intelli- to make some men better citizens than oth-

into its service the talents of some of the the remainder of the century, and it is not ablest minds in England, France, and so great an evil as it would be to leave any America. It has constrained, to use a mild large class unrepresented. word, some State and both national parties to recognize it in their platforms. In Massa chusetts it has been the hair in the scale which over-balanced one candidate, at least, for gubernatorial honors. These facts, more irresistible often than the logic of right and justice, are likely to obtain for this great question an unprejudiced hearing.

The number of women and men who, in America and Europe, have demanded this enter. Supposing such conditions, would extension of the suffrage, prevents this generation from dismissing the subject unheard and untried, and gives the respectability of numbers and influence to the claim. The friends of the movement, in fact, could now tion of paying women commensurate with rest their case, having already brought forward in the Senate, the lecture-room, thereviews, and on "the stump," sufficient argument in support of its claim to occupy the attention of the opposition for some time. It a very large, influential, and constantly inwas eminently proper that those who claim suffrage for women should have brought forward their arguments first. The burden of proof rests with them since they are seeking

to change an existing order of things.

Mr. Mill and M. Guizot are not alone in thinking the treatment accorded to women the distinguishing feature of modern civiliza-

Woman is no longer the beast of burden, the slave, or, at worst, the mere courtezan of man; but rather his help-meet, his adviser,

However much Mr. Buckle's theories and deductions may be questioned, few will dis-pute his extremely accurate information, so carefully collated, with regard to the social condition of Europe from the earliest time.

"On every side in all social phenomena," says he, "in the education of children, in the tone and spirit of literature, in the forms and usages of life; nay of statute books, and in the decisions of magistrates, we find manifold proofs that women are gradually making their vay, and slowly but surely winning for themselves a position superior to any they have hitherto attained. This is one of the many peculiarities which distinguish modern civiliration, and which show how essentially the most advanced countries are different from those that formerly existed."

Taking away personal representation, the right to a trial by a jury of one's peers, "the right to think, to know, and utter," which John Milton called "the dearest of all liberties," and we are not so much in advance of other civilizations. I would not be understood to disparage these as a small gain. On the contrary, I appreciate their full importance, symbolizing as they do the grand between the ancient civilizations, however brilliant, and our own. What I do contend for is, that the logical tendency of modern civilization, which is the product of these factors, is to remove restrictions-to give every individual the greatest liberty com-

in the theory of representation, accepted by the United States of America, women are all of these have come forward, been disthe only persons, of sound mind and unaccrime, (Indians unjustly excepted,) who are not represented. Give both the sufrage, and equality of representation is com-

In what does "the right" of suffrage consist? Is it obtained by any qualification which women may not inherently possess, or by perseverance, sacrifice, or genius ac The "right" in most cases, as lawyers well know, depends upon interpretation. The Constitution, interpreted in the light of the amendments, justice, freedom, equality, means the negro as a citizen. The friends of the movement are not obliged to prove it "a right." They have only to say, 'If it be 'a right' or a power, the exercise of which depends upon birth, property, intellicence, a sound mind, or any tion, except the mere accident of sex-the unsolved scientific problem-women are as much entitled to it as men, in so far as they the influ ossess these."

I should scorn to urge woman's intellectual claim. It counts for nothing, and if it steady, upright growth of the tree, that freedad have any value except as a side arguwhere Aspasia, Hypatia, Cajetana Agnesi, Bacon's mother and wife, Queen Elizabeth, Madame D'Acier, Elizabeth Carter, and "George Sand," are not sufficient proofs, a female Gothe, Shakspeare, or Humboldt would scarcely serve as argu

Women ought to have the ballot, if for no other reason, to make them free before the

# NEW NATIONAL ERA.

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It has calisted the sympathies and drawn joined to what we call universal suffrage for

vitude, let him consult the statutes of any ernor Alcorn's time our Legislature passed a regiment. He now represents Madison State—Mr. Sewall's admirable book on the Civil Rights Bill in relation to common car-county. He is also chairman of the Com-

### law. Does any one doubt their present ser- the passage of a Civil Rights Bill. In Gov- army, and was mustered out as colonel of a The District of Columbia Under Gerrit Smith to Susan B. Anthony. Territorial Government.

| Maintained | Mai

## RATES OF ADVERTISING.

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING RATES.

doing square in this paper.

Any space less than ten lines is charged the rate of a full

things else to peril them. It is, then, a very plain duty that we ask Government to dis-charge, when we ask it to suppress dram-selling. Let Government do this its simple duty, and the friends of temperance will then